

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 133260

FOR AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR OVIP HK

SUBJECT: SECRETARY BERGLA'S TRIP

PASS SECRETARY BERGLAND AND DR. DALE HATHAWAY FROM
HARRY WILHELM

THE FOLLOWING TWO LETTERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM MINISTER
WHELAN WHICH WE ARE PASSING ON FOR YOUR INFORMATION.
QUOTE DEAR MR. SECRETARY: IT WAS A GREAT PLEASURE AND
HONOR FOR US AT AGRICULTURE CANADA TO BE YOUR HOSTS DURING
THE DAY-LONG ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS IN OTTAWA. I AM PARTI-
CULARLY GRATIFIED THAT YOUR FIRST TRIP OUTSIDE YOUR
COUNTRY SINCE ASSUMING OFFICE SHOULD BE TO CANADA. I'M
SURE THAT THE COOPERATIVE APPROACH WE HAVE INITIATED WILL
CONTINUE TO THE BENEFIT OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
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INDUSTRY IN EACH OF OUR COUNTRIES.

2. I'M ESPECIALLY PLEASED AT THE PROSPECTS OF HOLDING
BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON BEEF TRADE AND TARIFFS. YOUR
AGREEMENT TO COMMENCE DISCUSSIONS BILATERALLY IS AN
IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD RESOLVING MANY DIFFICULTIES AND MAY
WELL FACILITATE PROGRESS IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA.

3. IT WAS HELPFUL FOR US TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIST

PRIORITIES FOR COMBINED ACTION. I'M THINKING PARTICULARLY OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF YOUR DEPARTMENT AND MINE IN MONITORING THE BEEF TRADE. I UNDERSTAND AMERICAN OFFICIALS WILL BE MEETING PEOPLE FROM MY DEPARTMENT VERY SOON TO ASSESS OUR PRESENT SITUATION. I APPRECIATE YOUR OFFER TO KEEP US INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS OF THE U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION INVESTIGATION OF IMPORTED BEEF PRODUCTS AND LIVESTOCK.

4. WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF OUR TARIFF BOARD REPORT ON HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTS. OUR PRODUCERS WANT AND NEED EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARD PROCEDURES AND UNDOUBTEDLY SO DO YOURS. WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO PROVIDE THOSE SAFEGUARDS WITHOUT JEOPARDY TO THE TOTAL AMERICAN-CANADIAN TRADE PICTURE.

5. I HAVE RESPONDED SEPARATELY TO YOUR LETTER SEEKING AN IMPROVED AGENDA FOR THE MANILA MEETING. I GENERALLY ACCEPT YOUR VIEW. THESE ARE IMPORTANT TALKS, AND BETWEEN US I KNOW WE COULD DO A LOT TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE WORTHWHILE.

6. AN AREA OF CONCERN YOU MENTIONED, IS A PLAN FOR A NATIONAL BROILER CHICKEN MARKETING BOARD. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED ON PGOPROGRESS TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH AN AGENCY.
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7. I SHARE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT INCREASING WHEAT STOCKS, AND CONSEQUENT RISK OF LOW INTERNATIONAL PRICES. STABILIZATION OF WORLD MARKETS IS A COMMON OBJECTIVE AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO CONSULT ON THIS ISSUE. WE'LL KEEP YOU FULLY IN THE PICTURE AS FAR AS CANADA'S POSITION ON THE NATURE OF A POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT.

8. MY DEPARTMENT'S OFFICIALS ARE READY AT ANY TIME TO DESCRIBE THE DETAILS OF OUR CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM TO YOUR STAFF. IS IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW WE CAN BENEFIT FROM EACH OTHER'S EXPERIENCES.

9. I HOPE YOU WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN ENCOURAGING STATE OFFICIALS TO WORK THROUGH WASHINGTON IN FURTHER CONTACTS WITH THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ON ISSUES SUCH AS BRUCELLOSIS REGULATIONS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOUR REPORT ON THE AMERICAN MEAT INSPECTION LEGISLATION AND THE AMOUNT OF LEEWAY IT MIGHT GIVE IN RELAXATION OF U.S. INSPECTION OF CANADIAN PLANTS.

10. I WAS MOST INTERESTED IN YOUR LISTING OF RESEARCH PRIORITIES. YOU MAY BE ASSURED OF OUR CONTINUED COOPERATION IN RESEARCH PROGRAMS TO OVERCOME THE MANY PROBLEMS WE SHARE IN COMMON.

11. LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT I WILL BE WATCHING VERY CLOSELY THE PROGRESS OF YOUR FARM BILL. I WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS IN GETTING IT THROUGH CONGRESS AND IN SEEING IMPLEMENTED THE MEASURES THAT ARE OF SUCH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO YOU.

12. AS I TOLD YOU WHEN YOU WERE HERE, OUR RELATIONS WITH WASHINGTON IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CORDIAL SINCE I BECAME MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. BUT IT CERTAINLY IS A PLEASURE TO HAVE SOMEONE LIKE YOURSELF, CONFIDENTIAL

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SO FAMILIAR WITH CANADA, OCCUPYING THE POST OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE IN WASHINGTON. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON IN MANILA. I HOPE IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE YOU COME TO OTTAWA AGAIN. YOURS SINCERELY, EUGENE WHELAN, JUNE 1, 1977. UNQUOTE

13. LETTER NUMBER 2 FROM MINISTER WHELAN. QUOTE:
DEAR MR. SECRETARY. I HAVE READ WITH INTEREST YOUR LETTER OUTLINING YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE UPCOMING THIRD SESSION OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AND THE PROPOSALS YOU SUGGEST TO DEAL WITH THESE CONCERNS. I ATTENDED THE TWO PREVIOUS COUNCIL SESSIONS AND BOTH TIMES CAME AWAY WITH A FEELING OF FRUSTRATION DUE TO INABILITY OF THE COUNCIL TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH A FEW MAJOR FOOD ISSUES. OUR DELEGATION TO THE PREPARATORY MEETING ALSO REPORTS THAT THE THIRD SESSION OF THE COUNCIL MAY BE LESS PRODUCTIVE AS WELL, UNLESS MINISTERS ARE ABLE TO FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION ON A FEW KEY ITEMS AND ENGAGE IN A DIALOGUE WITH EACH OTHER.

14. WE HAVE STUDIED YOUR SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR THE MANILA COUNCIL SESSION AND HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO MAKE. FIRSTLY, WE CAN AGREE, AS WE DID AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING, THAT THE THEME FOR THE THIRD SESSION BE THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. WE ALSO AGREE THAT DISCUSSION SHOULD BE OPEN AND CANDID. THIS IS THE WAY I HAVE AND INTEND TO CONTINUE TO PRESENT CANADIAN VIEWS TO THE COUNCIL. I HAVE ALWAYS ATTEMPTED TO DISCUSS ISSUES DIRECTLY WITH OTHER MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE WHEN ATTENDING INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND I AGREE, WHERE POSSIBLE, THAT WE SHOULD RESIST DELEGATING DECISIONS AT THE COUNCIL. THE RESULTS OF OUR DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE EXPRESSED IN A CLEAR AND CONCISE MANNER AND

HOPEFULLY REINFORCE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT TO MOVE MORE SWIFTLY TO ERADICATE WORLD HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. CONFIDENTIAL

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15. ON THE QUESTION OF THE AGENDA, I SHOULD SAY THAT I AM CONCERNED THAT IT IS BARELY THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE START OF THE SESSION AND IT HAS NOT BEEN AGREED UPON. IF THE SESSION IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THE MATTER MUST BE SETTLED BY THE COUNCIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE SESSION BEGINS. INFORMATION DISCUSSIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE 20 AND HOPEFULLY WE MINISTERS CAN AGREE ON ONE DURING THE DINNER ON THE EVE OF THE OPENING SESSION.

16. WE HAVE STUDIED YOUR PROPOSED AGENDA AND FEEL THAT WE CAN SUPPORT AN AGENDA CONTAINING THE FOUR TOPICS PROPOSED, WITH ONE MODIFICATION. ON THE TOPIC OF INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT DISCUSSION CENTER ON FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES RATHER THAN FOOD DEFICIT COUNTRIES. THE BULK OF THE FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES ARE POOR FOOD DEFICIT COUNTRIES. I DON'T BELIEVE WE NEED TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF THE RICH FOOD DEFICIT COUNTRIES. WE BELIEVE THE DISTINCTION IS AN IMPORTANT ONE. ACCEPTANCE OF FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES WILL HELP TO CONCENTRATE OUR DISCUSSIONS AND WILL PROBABLY BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GROUP OF 77.

17. WE CAN SUPPORT THE EXCLUSION FROM THIS SESSION'S AGENDA OF THE FOOD TRADE ISSUE. I DO BELIEVE IN THE LONGER TERM IT IS A SUBJECT WHICH IS APPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSION BY THE COUNCIL, BUT NOT AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IT WAS A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING AND WAS RAISED AT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE COUNCIL.

18. ATTACHED IS A MODIFIED AGENDA BASED ON YOUR INITIATIVE. PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE SESSIONS HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED. IN VIEW OF PAST RESULTS OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT YOUR VIEWS ABOUT THE NEED FOR DECISIONS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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BE MADE BY MINISTERS THEMSELVES, WE BELIEVE THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD IDENTIFY PRIORITY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT FUTURE SESSIONS.

19. FINALLY, I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR MEETING AGAIN IN MANILA AND I HOPE THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS IN THE COUNCIL WILL LEAD TO POSITIVE GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTS. YOUR SINCERELY, EUGENE WHELAN, MAY 30, 1977.

20. ENCLOSURE. PROPOSED AGENDA FOR MINISTERIAL MEETING, WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, MANILA, PHILIPPINES, JUNE 20-24, 1977. THEME: ERADICATION OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION (1) OPENING OF THE SESSION. (2) ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

(3) ADOPTION OF AGENDA. (4) ISSUES FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION AND DECISION: A. INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES; INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE OF OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, AGRICULTURAL INPUTS, AND CONCOMITANT INTERNAL INVESTMENT BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO IMPROVE AVAILABILITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD TO DISADVANTAGED GROUPS; B. FOOD AID - INCLUDING MEANS BY WHICH FOOD AID CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE NEEDIEST MEMBERS OF THE POPULATION AND BE MADE AN EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENTAL TOOL. C. FOOD SECURITY - INCLUDING HOW THE COUNCIL MIGHT GIVE IMPETUS TO AN INTERNATIONAL GRAINS AGREEMENT THAT INCLUDES AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF NATIONALLY-HELD RESERVES. D. NUTRITION - INCLUDING INCORPORATION OF NUTRITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING AND RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS. (5) RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COUNCIL: ACTION REQUIRED IN LIGHT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 31/120. (6) PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE SESSIONS. (7) DATE AND PLACE OF FOURTH SESSION. UNQUOTE

21. ACTING SECRETARY WHITE HAS RESPONDED TO THE LETTERS
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AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE DEAR MR. MINISTER: YOUR LETTER OF MAY 30, CONCERNING THE THIRD SESSION OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, AND YOUR LETTER OF JUNE L, CONCERNING YOUR RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH SECRETARY BERGLAND IN OTTAWA, WERE RECEIVED TODAY.

22. WE ARE RELAYING BOTH YOUR LETTERS TO SECRETARY BERGLAND, WHO NOW IS IN THE FAR EAST. AND, REGARDING YOUR LETTER OF JUNE L, OUR FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE IS ACTING ON THE SEVERAL ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE FURTHER ATTENTION BY THIS DEPARTMENT.

23. MY COLLEAGUES AND I ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE COOPERATION EXTENDED BY YOU AND YOUR MINISTRY. SINCERELY, JOHN C. WHITE, JUNE 8, 1977. VANCE

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